

Polit. Pamphlet vol. 109.

GREAT-BRITAIN'S MEMORIAL.

Containing a COLLECTION of the
Instructions, Representations,
&c. &c.

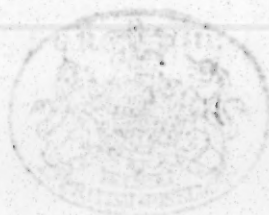
Of the Freeholders and other Electors of
Great-Britain, to their Representatives
in Parliament, for these Two Years
past.



L O N D O N:

Printed and Sold by J. WATSON, in
Wardrobe-Court, Great Carter-Lane.
1741.

(Price One Shilling.)



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INSTRUC-



INSTRUCTIONS, &c.

JUNE 18, 1740.

At a Court of Common-Council at Guild-hall, it was agreed to return the Thanks of the Court to the four Representatives of this City, viz. Mr. Alderman Parsons, Sir John Barnard, Mr. Alderman Perry, and Mr. Alderman Willimot, for their faithful and diligent Attendance in Parliament, particularly while the late Place-Bill was depending, in the following Manner:



THE Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, return you our Thanks for your faithful and diligent Attendance in Parliament, particularly while the *Place-Bill* was depending last
 B Sessions,

Sessions; and being solicitous, that the Rights and Liberties which this Nation has hitherto enjoy'd, should be continued to latest Posterity, and considering, that those Blessings can alone be secur'd by the Independency of Parliament, do most earnestly require of you to renew your Endeavours, in procuring a proper Bill for reducing and limiting the Number of Place-Men in the House of Commons.

As we apprehend, that our Expectations last Sessions were in a great Measure disappointed through the Absence of a few Members from Parliament, we cannot but entertain the strongest Hopes of Success the next Year, not doubting but those Gentlemen, being at length convinced, that a diligent Attendance in the House of Commons is of the utmost Consequence to the Nation, will not hazard a second Loss of this salutary Law, so immediately necessary to preserve the Freedom of our Constitution, to restore Unanimity among the People, and establish that Confidence in his Majesty's Measures as may effectually enable him, at this important Juncture, to assert the Honour of his Crown and Kingdom.

A Copy

A Copy of the Instructions given by the Grand Jury of the County of Bucks to the two Knights of the Shire, and likewise others from the Town of Buckingham to their Representatives, which Examples will be follow'd by the other Boroughs of the said County, remarkable for having in all Times, most eminently distinguish'd itself in Defence of the Constitution and its just Rights.

To the Hon. Sir William Stanhope, and Sir Thomas Lee, Barts.

WE the Grand Jury, &c. of the County of Bucks, assembled at Buckingham on Thursday July 17, 1740, in our Names, and at the Request of great Numbers of Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders, our Neighbours, do lay hold of this publick Occasion to declare our Sentiments to you.

We are convinc'd, that all our Liberties depend upon the Freedom of Parliament, which entirely consists in that of the Elect-ed and of the Electors; and we observe the Number of Placemen, Civil and Military, to have been greatly encreas'd in the House of Commons for these many Years past, as well as the notorious Influence us'd by the Minister, in Elections, over all his Dependents; we therefore cannot but en-

ertain great Apprehensions, that these Proceedings may, in their Consequences, tend to establish in the Crown a Power above all Controul from the two other Parts of the Legislature, and induce the Parliament itself to support those Grievances, which, in the Plan of our excellent Constitution, it was design'd to redress.

We therefore think that a proper Bill or Bills to secure Members of the House of Commons, and those who have a Right to elect them from being under any undue Influence, is an Expedient absolutely necessary for securing the whole; and we recommend it to you, as far as you regard our Opinion and Favour, to employ the most effectual Methods the Constitution will admit of, that such a Bill or Bills may pass into Laws.

It is with great Satisfaction that we have seen the Parliament act with so much Unanimity, Vigour and Zeal, in supporting the War: Four Millions granted to his Majesty for that Purpose this Year, a hundred thousand Men by Sea and Land in the Pay of *Great Britain*, and the Difficulties under which our Trade has labour'd from the Means made Use of for manning the Fleet, are Burthens we chearfully bear for the Defence of our Rights, and the Honour and Dignity of his Majesty's Crown: And as the Spirit of Parliament has been shewn
in

in an extraordinary manner, we have reason to expect that their Vigilance will not less appear in the strictest Enquiries how these Supplies and these Forces have been applied and manag'd ; whether all the Savings are made to the Publick that the real Exigencies of the War will allow ? and whether there has been so timely and prudent an Exertion of the Strength we have given, as to procure to the Nation all the Advantages they had a Right to expect ?

We are ready to sacrifice our Fortunes and Lives for his Majesty's Service ; but we cannot hope to see his Government prosperous, nor his wise Intentions properly answer'd, nor the Ends of the present happy Establishment fully secur'd unto us, if all such Influence be not remov'd, as may ever destroy the Independence of Parliament, without which the Balance of our Constitution cannot subsist.

As you have concurr'd in proper and salutary Methods for restraining such Influence, you deserve the Trust of your Constituents and the Thanks of your Country : But since the Bills of this Kind, which have been hitherto unsuccessfully attempted, are only so many melancholly Proofs of the Necessity of them, we think it the more incumbent upon us to declare our unanimous Sentiments, that whoever, upon the late enormous Increase of Placemen in Parliament,

ment, does not promote any Bill or Bills tending to the lessening so growing and dangerous an Evil, will be justly responsible to the latest Posterity for every other Grievance, Mischief and publick Dishonour, which, in future Times, according to the Course of human Affairs, must attend the Corruption of Parliaments, and the Impunity of Male-Administration.

To Richard Glanville, *and* George Denton,
Esqrs.

WE the Bailiff and Burgeses of *Buckingham*, being very sensible of your zealous Endeavours in promoting a Bill for limiting the excessive Number of Civil and Military Placemen in the House of Commons, upon the Success of which Endeavours our Liberties and Properties absolutely depend, desire to return you our sincere Thanks, in the most publick Manner, for your past Services, and to express our Confidence in you, that you will steadily persevere in the same. The principal Gentlemen of the County have, with a most laudable Zeal, declar'd their Opinion of the Necessity of procuring such a Bill, and the Sentiments which they have so fully express'd, are exactly conformable to our own.

York,

York, July 23. This Day being appointed for a General Meeting, to consider of proper Representatives for this County, in the ensuing Parliament, the High-Sheriff, Grand Jury, Gentlemen, Clergy and Freeholders met, and unanimously agreed in the Nomination of Lord *Morpeth* and Sir *Miles Stapylton*, Bart. and with the same Unanimity resolv'd to support their Interest in the most effectual Manner.

After Dinner, the following Paper, being agreed to by all the Gentlemen present, was deliver'd to Sir *Miles Stapylton*.

To Sir Miles Stapylton, Bart. Representative in Parliament for the County of York.

WE the High-Sheriffs, Grand Jury, Gentlemen, Clergy and Freeholders of the County of *York*, take this Opportunity to thank you for your constant Attendance in Parliament, and particularly for your Endeavours, the last Sessions, to obtain a Bill for reducing and limiting the Number of Placemen in the House of Commons; which Bill we have long thought necessary from the dangerous Consequences that might attend the Misapplication of an immense Civil-List; and which we apprehend more especially necessary at this time, when we see such large Supplies are so chearfully granted for retrieving the Honour, and restoring the Commerce of this Nation;

Nation ; and that no Inquiry can be made into the Conduct of those who have the Management of the publick Money, whilst so many Placemen are admitted to sit in that House, who evidently are, and must be, dependent upon a first Minister.

As what we recommend to you is the Sentiment of every *Englishman*, who is not influenc'd by his own private Interest or Expectation, we make no doubt of your utmost Efforts, in the ensuing Sessions, to promote a Bill so requisite for securing the Independency of Parliament, and preserving the Remains of our excellent Constitution.

At the above Meeting were present.

Rt. Hon. Earl of Carlisle,	Godfrey Wentworth, Esq;
Hon. Thomas Willoughby,	Thomas Fairfax, Esq;
Esq;	William Wrightson, Esq;
Hon. Christ. Dawney, Esq;	Richard Langley, Esq;
Hon. John Aislaby, Esq;	Henry Beaumont, Esq;
Sir Samuel Armitage, Bart.	John Twisleton, Esq;
Sir Henry Slingsby, Bart.	William Simpson, Esq;
Sir John Lister Kaye, Bart.	Bacon Morritt, Esq;
Sir Miles Stapylton, Bart.	William Spencer, of Cannon-
Sir George Cooke, Bart.	Hall, Esq;
Sir Reginald Graham, Bart.	Richard Richardson, Esq;
Thomas Duncombe, Esq;	Timothy Mauleverer, Esq;
George Fox, Esq;	Thomas Empson, Esq;
Edward Wortley, Esq;	Richard Sterne, Esq;
Walter Calverley Blacket, Esq;	Henry Brown, Esq;
Bryan Stapylton, Esq;	William Burton, Esq;
John Blacket, Esq;	Edmund Barker, Esq;
George Cooke, Esq;	John Milbank, Esq;
Thomas Fawkes, Esq;	Henry Atkinson, Esq;
William Vavasour, Esq;	Richard Horton, Esq;
Thomas Lister, Esq;	Francis Smajles, Esq;

Gregory

Gregory Rhodes, Esq;
 Richardson Farrand, Esq;
 Marmaduke Fothergil, Esq;
 Metcalfe Procter, Esq;
 Gabetis Norton, Esq;
 John Spencer, Esq;
 Robert Baines, of Mewith-
 Head, Esq;
 Charles Nowell, Esq;
 Thomas Sawyer, Esq;
 Richard Lawson, Esq;
 Matthew Wilson, Esq;
 Richard Kitchingham, Esq;
 Edward Forster, Esq;

Timothy Sterne, Esq;
 John Burton, Esq;
 John Hamerton, Esq;
 Christopher Ascough, Esq;
 Cavendish Nevile,
 Henry Wickham, } Clerks;
 James Young,
 John Plaxton,
 Andrew Perrot,
 Mr. John Shaw,
 Mr. Thomas Ascough,
 Mr. Francis Drake,
 Mr. James Collins.

*Grand Jury for the County of York, for
 the Summer Assizes, 1740.*

Sir John Lister Kaye, Bart.
 Thomas Fairfax, of Newton,
 Esq;
 Henry Beaumont, of Whitley,
 Esq;
 William Spencer, of Cannon-
 Hall, Esq;
 William Wrightson, of Cus-
 worth, Esq;
 Richard Horton, of Holdroyd,
 Esq;
 John Twissleton, of Rawcliff,
 Esq;
 Thomas Fawkes, of Farnley,
 Esq;
 Richardson Farrand, of Hard-
 ingbeck, Esq;
 Richard Richardson, of Bierly,
 Esq;
 Henry Atkinson, of Caley, Esq;
 William Vavasour, of Weston,
 Esq;

John Blacket, of Newby,
 Esq;
 Francis Smales, of Alborough,
 Esq;
 Timothy Sterne, of Bradford,
 Esq;
 Henry Brown, of Skelbrook,
 Esq;
 William Simpson, of Stain-
 forth, Esq;
 Metcalfe Procter, of Thorp on
 the Hill, Esq;
 William Scot, of Leamin, Esq;
 Ralph Elmsall, of Thornhill,
 Esq;
 Christopher Ayscough, of Kir-
 by-Malzeard, Esq;
 Matthew Wilson, of Ashton,
 Esq;
 John Hammerton, of Helli-
 field-Peel, Esq;

C

Instructions

*Instructions from the Gentlemen, Clergy,
and Freeholders in the County of Corn-
wall, to their Representatives.*

*To Sir William Carew, and Sir John
St. Aubin, Barts.*

WE the Grand Inquest, &c. for the County of *Cornwall*, assembled at *Bodmin* on *Thursday* the *31st* of *July* 1740, in Behalf of our selves, and at the Request of others, the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the said County, take this Occasion of expressing our Thanks to you our Representatives, for your Conduct in Parliament, your strict Adherence to the true Interest of your Country, and your Regard for its Honour and Liberties. But while we are pleas'd with your Attempts towards remedying Grievances, we cannot but lament the ill Success of your Endeavours, and form to ourselves the most dreadful Apprehensions, that if a speedy and effectual Remedy be not apply'd, our Constitution will e'er long be totally and irretrievably destroy'd. It has been the Care of our Ancestors to preserve the Freedom of Parliaments, and it has been most justly so: The Prosperity of Trade, the Welfare of the Kingdom, and the Security of our Liberties depend upon it; and therefore it is declar'd by the Wisdom of the
Legi-

Legislature, that the Election of Members to serve in Parliament, as also Parliaments, ought to be free.

Gentlemen, The great Increase of Offices, carefully distributed amongst the Electors, together with the great Number of Places enjoy'd by Gentlemen, when elected to sit in the House of Commons, give us the greatest Alarms for our Liberties; and therefore however ineffectual your Labours have hitherto been, we hope that this publick Testimony of our Approbation will encourage you to proceed, without desponding of a more favourable Opportunity, in procuring a proper Bill or Bills to pass into a Law, to prevent Persons, under a Visible Court Dependency, from voting in Elections of Members to serve in Parliament, and to reduce and limit the Number of Placemen in the House of Commons; a Security we deem absolutely necessary to be obtain'd, before we can have the least Expectations from any other Measures, which may or can be offer'd for the Welfare and Safety of the Publick.

We more particularly feel ourselves oblig'd thus publickly to declare our Sentiments on this Head, from the daily Instances of an Influence prevailing in our Boroughs, in direct Opposition to the Natural Interests of the Gentlemen of this

County, and from the great Number of Places, enjoy'd by Members thus elected, the Majority of whom have *acted* and *voted* in direct Contradiction, not only to *Ours*, but to the *General Sense* of the Nation.

We don't, *Gentlemen*, in the least doubt of your Readiness of receiving, and Zeal in executing these our Instructions; and that you will think, the strongest Proof we can give of our Satisfaction in your past Behaviour, is, that we make it now our Request to you, to pursue a Measure in which you have already voluntarily concurr'd.

*Grand Jury for the County of Cornwall,
for the Summer Assizes, 1740.*

Thomas Pitt, of Boconock, Esq;
Charles Trelawney, of Cold-
rinick, Esq;
Richard Eliot, of St. Germans,
Esq;
Richard Nugent, Esq;
John Hoblyn, of Croan, Esq;
Francis Gregor, of Trewarthe-
nick, Esq;
John Hearle, of Penryn, Esq;
Francis Scobell, the younger
of Tregonning, Esq;
John Treise, of Lavethan, Esq;
Nicholas Glynd, of Glynn, Esq;
John Cock, of Endellion, Esq;
Jo. Fortescue, of Menagizzy,
Esq;

John Arundell, of Penzance,
Esq;
Samuel Gully, Esq;
William Demon, of Truro,
Esq;
John Trewbody, of St. Ger-
mans, Esq;
Philip Carlyon, of St. Blazey,
Esq;
Hender Mounstevens, of Lan-
car, Esq;
John Nance, of Irengoth, Esq;
John Hamley, of Treblethick,
Esq;
Thomas Fisher, of Fowey, Esq;
Ezekiel Webber, of St. Kew,
Esq;

N. B.

N. B. All the Gentlemen of the Grand Jury (*except one*) sign'd the above Instructions.

There was the greatest Appearance of Gentlemen at *Bodmin* Assizes that has been known for several Years past; for besides those of the Grand Jury, several Persons of Distinction were there, who unanimously agreed to stand by and support the *Country Interest*, and to oppose *Corruption* in every Shape.

At the Assizes held at *Stafford*, on *Wednesday* the 6th of *August*, there was the greatest Appearance of Gentlemen ever known upon the like Occasion, when the following Instructions to their worthy Knights of the Shire were unanimously agreed to, and assign'd by the High Sheriff, Grand Jury, Gentlemen, Clergy and Freeholders, *viz.*

To the Hon. William Leveson Gower, Esq;
and Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot, Bart.
Representatives in Parliament for the
County of Stafford.

WE the High Sheriff, Grand Jury, Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of *Stafford*, whose Names are subscribed, assembled at the
Assizes

Assizes held for this County at *Stafford*, the 6th Day of *August* 1740, do, in Behalf of ourselves, and at the earnest Request of our Neighbours, return you our sincere and hearty Thanks for your steady Adherence to the true Interest of the Nation, and for your Zeal in asserting our common Rights and Privileges.

Your vigorous Opposition to the infamous *Convention* concluded with *Spain*, and at the same Time, your Readiness in raising such Supplies as were sufficient to vindicate the Honour of the Crown, and to do Justice to an injur'd People, convince us that you have no other Views but those of serving your King and Country: And though these Instances of your publick Spirit gives us the utmost Confidence in your future Conduct, yet we can't omit this Opportunity of desiring you to pursue that noble Design of Liberty, in limiting the Number of *Placemen* in your House, which has hitherto unhappily miscarry'd, to endeavour to restore the *British* Parliament to its original Independency; for for whilst so many Civil and Military Employments are distributed amongst its Members, our boasted Freedom must soon degenerate into mean and slavish Compliances.

We must also most earnestly desire you to enquire into the Application of those
vast

vast Sums which have been granted ; and if you discover any Profuseness or corrupt Practices in the Management of them, to endeavour to bring the Offenders to Justice, and to make them feel the Weight of a *British* Parliament.

To *Sir William Courteney, Bart. Sir Henry Northcote, Bart. Sir William Morris, Bart. and Theophilus For-tescue, Esq;*

WE the Grand Inquest of the County of *Devon*, return you our Thanks for your diligent Attendance in Parliament, and zealous Support of the Bill for limiting the Number of *Placemen* in the House of Commons brought into that House the last Sessions ; a Bill, in our Opinion, at all Times absolutely necessary for the Preservation of the *British* Liberties, and more especially so in the present Juncture, as the great Increase of Placemen, and the Use that is so notoriously made of every Kind of Influence and Dependence, require the most vigorous Efforts to secure the Freedom of Parliament, on which the very Being of our happy Constitution depends. And we doubt not but, in the ensuing Session, you will employ your most effectual Endeavours, that a Bill for limiting the Number of Placemen

men in the House of Commons, may pass into a Law.

James Buller,
A. Champernowne,
Francis Draw,
J. Pollexfen,
T. Bury,
William Clifford Martin,
Benjamin Heath,
Nort. Nelson,
Robert Lake,
Richard Doidge,

John Luscombe,
William Neyle,
George Taner,
Charles Hayne,
Christopher Savery,
Richard Beavis,
Robert Duke,
Thomas Tothill, jun.
Richard Denham.

Derby Assizes, Aug. 2. 1740.
To the Right Hon. the Lord Charles Cavendish, and Sir Nathaniel Curzon, Bart. Representatives of the County of Derby in Parliament.

WE the High-Sheriff, Grand Jury, Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of *Derby*, take this Opportunity of expressing our Concern, that all our Endeavours for obtaining a Bill for reducing and limiting the Number of Placemen in the House of Commons, have hitherto prov'd fruitless: We therefore recommend to you, and insist upon it, that you use your utmost Endeavours in the ensuing Parliament, to promote a Bill for that Purpose, which we think absolutely necessary for the securing the Independency of Parliament, and preserving our Liberties and ancient Customs.

Edinburgh,

Edinburgh, August 11. Last *Friday* several of the Incorporations of Trades in this City waited on his Grace the Duke of *Argyle*, and return'd him their sincere Thanks for his constant and steady Attachment to the Cause of Liberty : They were all received with uncommon Goodness.

Among others, his Grace was waited on by *David Mitchel*, Deacon, *James Mitchelson*, *William Ayton*, *Hugh Gordon*, *James Tait*, *Thomas Mitchel*, *Dougal Ged*, and *Alexander Campbel*, as a Committee of the Incorporation of Goldsmiths, when Mr. *Dougal Ged*, their Treasurer, by Order of the Deacon, presented the following Address to his Grace.

My Lord,

‘ We, by Appointment of the Goldsmiths of *Edinburgh*, think it our Honour and Duty to wait upon your Grace, with the utmost Gratitude to assure you of the high Sense we have of your Grace’s Merit, the Obligations we lie under to your Grace for so eminently distinguishing yourself on all Occasions, in Support and Defence of the real Interest and Glory of our King and Country, the Liberties and Commerce of the Nation, Independence of Parliaments, and the Privileges of this City ; and are highly sensible how much it would tend to our and our Posterity’s Happiness, to have

D

‘ Men

‘ Men of such Sentiments, whom we have
 ‘ Reason to believe would be agreeable to
 ‘ your Grace ; and for our Parts, we shall
 ‘ reckon it our greatest Honour to promote
 ‘ the Election of such as are free and in-
 ‘ dependent, so far as lies in our Power.’

The following is the Surgeons Address presented to his Grace the Duke of *Argyle*:

My Lord,

‘ We, deputed by the Corporation of
 ‘ Surgeon-Apothecaries of *Edinburgh*, to
 ‘ wait on your Grace, are instructed to
 ‘ express the grateful Sense they have of,
 ‘ and Obligations they lie under to your
 ‘ Grace, for your steady Adherence to the
 ‘ Cause of Liberty, the true Interest of
 ‘ your King and Country, and in parti-
 ‘ cular for your great and vigorous En-
 ‘ deavours to maintain the Privileges of
 ‘ this City. They heartily wish all Mem-
 ‘ bers of Parliament were possess’d of such
 ‘ Principles, and would follow your Grace’s
 ‘ Example. And as their Deacon has a
 ‘ Place in Council, and a Vote in filling it
 ‘ up, as also in chusing a Representative
 ‘ in Parliament for this City, they shall
 ‘ use their best Endeavours to have such
 ‘ an one chosen, as shall execute so great
 ‘ a Trust with Resolution and Fidelity.’

His

His Grace's Answer was to this purpose.

Gentlemen,

‘ Since you are pleas’d to think me your
 ‘ Friend and Servant, permit me to give
 ‘ you this Advice, which I think is an
 ‘ honest one; behave yourselves with the
 ‘ greatest Duty to the King, with the
 ‘ strictest Regard to the Laws of your
 ‘ Country, and give your Assistance in your
 ‘ Elections to such Persons only who you
 ‘ are perswaded will serve their King and
 ‘ Country with true Zeal, unallay’d with
 ‘ private Interest.’

*Instructions from the Gentlemen, Clergy
 and Freeholders, in the County of Somers-
 set, to their Representative.*

To Thomas Strangeways Horner, Esq;

WE the High Sheriff, Grand Jury,
 Gentlemen and Clergy, of the
 County of *Somerset*, assembled at the
 Assizes and General Meeting at *Bridge-
 water*, on *Friday August* the 15th, 1740,
 take this Opportunity of declaring how
 sensible we are of the Necessity of promo-
 ting a proper Bill for limiting the Number
 of *Placemen* in Parliament: We are con-
 vinced, that the Security of our Liberties
 is entirely founded upon the Independence
 of our Representatives; and we think the

notorious Influence used by the Minister over his Dependents, if not timely prevented, must prove fatal to those Rights which we are determin'd to enjoy ourselves, and to transmit to Posterity: Therefore we require you to employ the utmost of your Endeavours to promote such a Bill as will effectually put a Stop to this growing Evil. And farther we enjoin you, according to the ancient Usage of Parliament, not to give your Assent to any Money-Bill or Supply, until the Grievance abovementioned be fully and effectually redress'd.

Sign'd by a great Number of the principal Gentlemen of the said County.

Edinburgh, August 18. Friday, the Conveener of the Trades of this City, accompanied by the Deacons of the Goldsmiths, Wrights, Masons, Taylors, Shoemakers, Weavers, Hatters, Dyers, and Butchers, waited on his Grace the Duke of *Argyle*, and presented the following Address.

My Lord,

‘ We the Conveener and Deacons, in
 ‘ Name of the several Incorporations of
 ‘ *Edinburgh*, and as being authorized by
 ‘ them, think it our Honour and Duty to wait
 ‘ upon your Grace, with the greatest Grati-
 ‘ tude to assure you of the high Esteem we
 ‘ have of your Grace’s Merit, of the Oblig-
 ‘ ations we lie under to your Grace, for
 ‘ your

‘ your so singularly distinguishing yourself
 ‘ on all Occasions, in Support and Defence
 ‘ of the real Interest and Glory of our
 ‘ King and Country, the Liberties and
 ‘ Commerce of the Nation, the Indepen-
 ‘ dence of Parliaments, and particularly
 ‘ the Privileges of this City; and are
 ‘ highly sensible, how much it would tend
 ‘ to our Happiness, and our Posterity’s, to
 ‘ have Men of such Sentiments as your
 ‘ Grace, in every Station attended with
 ‘ Power and Influence.’

*Extract of a Letter from Stafford, dated
 August 25.*

‘ This Day our Mayor and Corporation
 ‘ address’d their two worthy Members in
 ‘ Parliament in the following Manner.

*To the Right Hon. John Lord Viscount
 Chetwynd, and William Chetwynd, Esq;
 Representatives in Parliament for the
 Borough of Stafford.*

‘ **W**E the Mayor, Aldermen, and Bur-
 ‘ gesses of *Stafford*, in the Com-
 ‘ mon-Council assembled, take this Oppor-
 ‘ tunity of returning you our sincere Thanks
 ‘ for your constant Attendance in Parlia-
 ‘ ment, and for your steady Endeavours to
 ‘ promote and establish the undoubted
 ‘ Rights and Liberties of a *British* Peo-
 ‘ ple;

‘ ple ; and do declare in particular our Ap-
 ‘ probation of your Conduct in promoting
 ‘ the Bill for limiting the exorbitant Num-
 ‘ ber of *Placemen* in Parliament, being
 ‘ confident, unless such Regulation take
 ‘ Place, our Properties are precarious, our
 ‘ Liberties unsafe, and that the Balance
 ‘ of Power once so well establish’d between
 ‘ the Crown and the People, never can be
 ‘ continued but by the Independency of
 ‘ Parliament.

‘ We therefore desire you to persevere,
 ‘ and use your utmost Efforts in supporting
 ‘ such a Bill, from which only we shall
 ‘ be enabled to enjoy the Privileges pre-
 ‘ scribed by our excellent Constitution.

‘ No Mistrust of your future Behaviour
 ‘ induces us to make this Request ; we do
 ‘ it, to declare in a publick Manner, how
 ‘ laudable that Zeal, which already spreads
 ‘ itself throughout the Nation, on the same
 ‘ Account, appears to us, when it so exact-
 ‘ ly corresponds with our own.

By the Order and Direction of the Mayor
 and Common-Council assembled, un-
 der our Town Seal, by

Richard Drakeford, *Town Clerk.*

‘ The Grand Jury, Gentlemen, and
 ‘ Clergy, of this County, after they had
 ‘ made their proper Compliments to our
 ‘ Knights

‘ Knights of the Shire, did the same to
 ‘ the respective Members of this County,
 ‘ who were present, taking particular No-
 ‘ tice of the *Unanimity* with which they
 ‘ of *this County* had acted.’

To the Hon. Baptist Leveson Gower, Esq;

WE the Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgeses
 of *Newcastle Under-Line, Stafford-*
shire, are thoroughly sensible that this Con-
 stitution can no longer maintain that Free-
 dom which distinguisheth it from all others,
 than whilst a due Balance is preserv’d be-
 tween the Powers which constitute the
 Legislature; that the Freedom of Elections
 and the Independency of Parliament are
 absolutely necessary for the Preservation
 of this Balance, and that a Pecuniary In-
 fluence gain’d by the Crown over the Elec-
 tors of *Great Britain*, and the Members
 of the two Houses of Parliament, must
 inevitably destroy that necessary Indepen-
 dency. We see the Civil List, by gradual
 Increases from time to time, now swell’d
 to an extravagant and dangerous Bulk;
 we feel that the Constitution of the Re-
 venues appropriated for the Payment of the
 publick Debts, hath given such Influence
 to the Crown, over all Ranks of Men, in-
 titled to vote, either for, or as Members
 of Parliament, as hath thrown into the
 Hands

Hands of our present Sovereign, Powers more extensive and more real, than ever were enjoy'd or hoped for by any of his Predecessors: We therefore take this Opportunity of expressing our Apprehensions to you, that all our Rights, Liberties and Privileges, will soon lie expos'd to the Mercy of the Crown, unless some Law or Laws are enacted by which this just Balance may be kept duly pois'd, and this necessary Controul everlastingly preserv'd; for we are by Experience convinc'd, that no one of the Powers which constitute the Legislature, ever gain'd an Ascendency over the other two, and shook off all Controul, but it soon degenerated into Tyranny. We communicate these our Sentiments to you, pleas'd that we have no Occasion to reproach, instruct, or exhort you; happy that we can approve your steady and disinterested Conduct in our Service, we are the more desirous of assuring you of this Approbation, because we believe you have propos'd no End to yourself in this Service but the publick Good, and desire no Reward but the Approbation of your Country; and we are confident it will add such Strength to your Zeal, that nothing will be able to intimidate, seduce, or weary you in your Endeavours to promote these necessary Laws, when you know these Endeavours will be acceptable to us, honourable

able to yourself, and (if successful) of infinite Advantage to your Country, in this, and all succeeding Generations.

*To Richard Shuttleworth and Peter Bold,
Esqs. Representatives in Parliament for
the County Palatine of Lancaster.*

GENTLEMEN,

WE the High Sheriff, and Grand Inquest for the County *Palatine* of *Lancaster*, on *Saturday* the 23d Day of *August*, 1740, take this Occasion publickly to return you our Thanks (and, by Direction, the Thanks of most of the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders in this County) for your steady and unshaken Adherence to the true Interests of this Kingdom. It is an unspeakable Pleasure to us to know, and be convinced, that we are represented by Gentlemen, who, in a degenerate Age, have had the Courage and Integrity, both in your publick and private Characters, to resist that Flood of Corruption and Court Influence, which for many Years has prevail'd, and almost overspread the Land. The fatal Consequences of Places or Pensions given to Members of Parliament are visible to every Understanding; so visible, that no Arts or Ministerial Sophistry can disguise them. It is a rational and well-grounded Apprehension,

E

that

that the Honour and Reputation, the Trade and Prosperity of this Nation, must all shortly be lost and perish; that our ancient Liberties, Rights and Privileges, as *Englishmen*, will be taken away and destroy'd, and our boasted Constitution totally demolish'd, if some effectual Methods be not taken to cure the vile Corruption and slavish Principles of the present Times. And, Gentlemen, give us leave to say, that nothing can effectually redress our Grievances, but a free and independent Parliament, compos'd of Men like yourselves, above the mean Favours of a Court, and guided by nothing but the Welfare and Prosperity of your Country, and the sincere Dictates of your Consciences. Every Thing, Gentlemen, that is worth contending for, or worth having in this World, is concluded in Liberty. We know and acknowledge, with the Gratitude that becomes us, that you, Gentlemen, have done your utmost to preserve it, and to continue it to our Posterity, particularly by your late Endeavours to procure a Bill for the Limitation of *Placemen* and *Pensioners* in the House of Commons: Endeavours which, it must be confess'd with Sorrow, were unsuccessful; but they were and still are necessary, and therefore ought to be renew'd with fresh Vigour and Application. And we do insist upon it, as you value our
Esteem

Esteem and Favours, that you pursue the same End, by the same Methods, of promoting a Bill, or Bills, which shall make both the Elector and the Elected free. It is, Gentlemen, a Happiness to this Country, that we have Representatives to whom we dare to talk at this rate, who know we have a Right to talk so, and will receive our Instructions with Pleasure: It is our Duty to give them, and yours to pursue them; by this Means both you and we, whatever Calamities befall us, shall at least discharge ourselves from any Imputation of not having us'd our best Endeavours to prevent them.

Law. Rawstorne,
Edm. Assheton,
J. Ainsworth,
T. Clayton,
William Atherton,
N. Wall,
R. Hesketh, Sheriff,
Tho. Lester,

James Shuttleworth,
John Parker,
Robert Gwillym,
Robert Bankes,
Alexander Butler,
Alexander Nowell,
Henry Farrington,
S. Werden.

Edinburgh, Aug. 28. Tuesday the Dean of the *Guild* and his Council attended his Grace the Duke of *Argyle* with the Compliments of the whole *Guildry*; they were receiv'd in the most agreeable manner, and his Grace took Occasion to inspire them with the best Sentiments of Duty towards their King and Country, and with a nobler Concern for Liberty in general.

My Lord,

‘ We are deputed by the *Guildry* of the
 ‘ City of *Edinburgh*, to wait upon your
 ‘ Grace with the Compliments of that
 ‘ Body, and, in their Name, to return you
 ‘ their hearty Thanks for the many Fa-
 ‘ vours which they owe to your Grace.

‘ They think it doubly their Duty to
 ‘ give you this publick Mark of their Gra-
 ‘ titude, *As Citizens of Edinburgh*, for the
 ‘ Protection which you gave in so generous
 ‘ and so successful a manner to this City
 ‘ and Magistrates thereof, when her Pri-
 ‘ vileges, and even her very Being, as a
 ‘ Corporate Body, were in the utmost Dan-
 ‘ ger; *As Britons*, for your noble and dis-
 ‘ interested Behaviour in Parliament.

‘ They are very sensible how closely
 ‘ the real Interest of the *King* and *Country*
 ‘ is connected with the Independency of
 ‘ Parliaments; that it is the Duty of every
 ‘ good Subject and true Lover of his Coun-
 ‘ try, to have that in their View in all
 ‘ Elections, and so far as they have any
 ‘ Influence, it shall be employ’d for pro-
 ‘ moting so valuable a Purpose.

*Signed in Name and by Appointment
 of the general Meeting of the
 Guildry.*

Geo. Haliburton.

To

To Charles Cholmondely, and John Crewe,
*Esqrs. Representatives in Parliament
 for the County Palatine of Chester.*

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Behaviour in Parliament has been so agreeable to the Sense of of your Electors, that we, the Sheriffs and Grand Jury of this County of *Chester*, in Behalf of our selves, and at the Request of many Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders, take this publick Occasion of returning you our hearty Thanks for the same, and to assure you of our Services at the next General Election.

As the Chief Security of our Liberties consists in the free and uncorrupted Resolutions of our Representatives in Parliament; we expect from you a hearty and sincere Concurrence and Assistance in every Attempt that shall be made to reduce the Number of *Placemen* in the House of Commons; a Number dangerous to our Constitution, which, if not speedily restrain'd, must end in the Ruin of those Rights and Liberties we derive from our Ancestors, and which, by God's Assistance, we are determin'd to transmit to our Posterity.

At your next Meeting in Parliament, 'tis to be hop'd, that grand Grievance will be redress'd, and the most effectual Method to do it, as we apprehend, will be to let
 the

the Supplies and Grievances go Hand in Hand, according to the antient and laudable Usage of Parliament.

As we give our Taxes and Supplies freely and chearfully to support the Government, and carry on the just and necessary War we are now engaged in; we expect from you to look strictly into the Uses to which they are applied, and to prevent their being any way alienated from those Services for which they were granted.

From the Grand Jury Room, September the 5th, 1740.

John Byrne, *Sheriff.*

Barrymore,
R. Grosvenor,
John Werden,
P. Egerton,
Peter Shakerley,
Richard Davenport,
R. Wilbraham,
Randulph Crewe,
Francis Price,
Robert Hyde,

Ed, Powys,
Tho. Ravenscroft,
Edward Morgan,
J. Jervis,
John Leech,
Robert Foulkes,
John Brerewood,
William Cowper,
George Eaton,
Richard Lowndes.

The Answer of his Grace the Duke of Argyle, to the Guildry of the City of Edinburgh.

GENTLEMEN,

IF I had serv'd my King, his Royal Family, and my Country, with as much Ability and Success, as I have done with Zeal and Honesty, I might have deserv'd some Share of the Applause you are generously

rously pleased to bestow upon my good Intentions. I have undoubtedly meant to do my Duty, and to that End have ever steadily avoided all Manner of Dependence upon any of my Fellow-Subjects in Power; and have never attempted, directly or indirectly, to bring any Man to the least Dependence upon me. I have strictly observed the Golden Rule, *of doing by others as I desire they would do by me.* But as careful as I have been, by all my Actions, to prove this Truth, there are, it seems some Persons, tho' pretending to be my Friends, who find it their Interest, by Insinuations, to dispute it. All Men must expect to have Enemies. I heartily forgive mine, and shall never endeavour to inflict any other Punishment upon them, than that of forcing them to esteem the Man, whom their dirty pecuniary Views oblige them to hate.

Gentlemen, I thank God, he has given me Spirit enough to detest and scorn all Views of Self-Interest in my publick Conduct; and, as an Evidence of my Sincerity, I heartily wish and pray that every Man may do what his Conscience directs him to think will conduce to the Service of his King and Country, without the least Regard to his private Interest, or to any Subject whatever. For my own Part, I hope I shall be able, by my future Conduct,
to

to convince every Man, who is capable of Conviction, that I most sincerely look upon *Virtue* to be its own Reward.

Instructions from the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Gloucester, to their Representatives in Parliament.

To the Hon. Benjamin Bathurst and Thomas Chester, Esqrs.

WE the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Gloucester, on *Wednesday* the 24th of *September* 1740, in Behalf of ourselves, and the rest of the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the same County, take this Opportunity of returning you our hearty Thanks for your zealous (tho' fruitless) Endeavours, in the last Sessions, to procure a proper Bill for limiting the Number of *Placemen* in the House of Commons, and, at the same time, publickly to declare our Sentiments of the Necessity there is for some such Bill or Bills, in order to preserve this excellent Constitution.

The late enormous Encrease of *Placemen* in Parliament, confirms us in this Opinion; especially when we compare the Behaviour of those who have no Employments, with the Actions of such who possess Places of great Trust and Profit.

The

The Independence of our Representatives is the only Security of those Rights and Liberties, which our Ancestors have deliver'd to us, and which we are determin'd to maintain. We therefore require you to use your utmost Efforts at the next Meeting of Parliament, to put a Stop to the growing Evil of Corruption, and to find out and punish its chief Promoters.

Edinburgh, Oct. 6. We hear from *Aberdeen*, that in a numerous Meeting on *September 30*, of the Freeholders of the County of *Aberdeen*, where were present *Sir Arthur Forbes*, of *Craigievar*, and *Mr. William Grant*, his Majesty's Solicitor for *Scotland*, both Candidates to represent the County in the ensuing Parliament, it was agreed to thank and instruct their Representative in manner following:

To Sir Arthur Forbes, of Craigievar, Bart.

WE the Barons and Freeholders of
 the Shire of *Aberdeen*, at the
Michaelmas Head-Court assembled, 1740,
 do take the Opportunity to return, in this
 publick Manner, our hearty, and sincere
 Thanks for your honest and disinterested
 Conduct in Parliament, particularly for
 your Appearance on the Side of Liberty,
 and in Support of the Honour and Trade
 F of

‘ of the Nation, in the late important
 ‘ Votes of the *infamous* Convention with
 ‘ *Spain*, and the *Place-Bill*.

‘ Tho’ your Behaviour in Parliament
 ‘ has justly given us a thorough Confidence
 ‘ in you, which we will on every Occasion
 ‘ shew ; yet, as we are persuaded, that re-
 ‘ ducing and limiting the Number of *Place-*
 ‘ *men* and *Pensioners* in the House of
 ‘ Commons, is the only Mean of securing
 ‘ the Freedom and Independency of Par-
 ‘ liament, (upon which the very Being of
 ‘ our Constitution depends) we expect you
 ‘ will continue to concur in every Attempt,
 ‘ that shall be made for obtaining so valu-
 ‘ able and necessary a Law ; and we desire,
 ‘ that, to the utmost of your Power, you
 ‘ will endeavour to procure the Revival of
 ‘ the Trenchial Act.

Bracco, *Preses*.

’Twas observ’d, that the above Instructions
 were not unanimously approv’d of ; for the
 Question being put, there were, of 47 pre-
 sent, Four who voted for the Negative.

To Robert Trefusis *and* Kellond Courte-
 ney, *Esqrs*.

GENTLEMEN,
WE the Mayor, Aldermen, and Capi-
 tal Burgeses of the Borough of
Truro, amidst that Torrent of Corruption
 that

that almost overwhelm'd this County, at the last general Elections, stood undefiled, and therefore chose you for our Representatives, whom we can now thank for your steady and constant Adherence to the true Interest of your Country. It is with Pleasure we have observ'd, from your past Conduct, how much you are convinced the Liberties of this Nation exist, by the Independency of its Parliaments; but, at the same Time, it is with the utmost Sorrow we observe the same scandalous and open Attempts, daily made, all around us, to procure *Placemen*, to be again elected, in the ensuing Parliament. Should the vast Sums of publick Money, in the Hands of the Administration, be once more able to effect this; what fatal Consequences may we not expect from so exorbitant a Number of *Placemen* always subservient to the Nod of a *self-sufficient* and *over-bearing* Minister?

The next Step to limiting the Number of *Placemen*, for the Security of our Liberties, is, to shorten the Duration of Parliaments: Long Parliaments afford infinite Opportunities to the Wicked and Designing, to put their most pernicious Schemes in Execution, and must, at last, end in the utter Destruction of our Liberties. These Grievances, it's true, have often been loudly complain'd of, and the Endeavours to

remedy them have as often, hitherto, prov'd ineffectual : But these melancholy Instances only convince us, how justly our Fears are grounded.

We therefore think it incumbent upon us to enjoin and insist, that you give a strict and due Attendance, at the next Sessions, and use your utmost Efforts to get these crying Evils effectually redress'd, and such Efforts can never be exerted on a more important Occasion ; and by your so doing, whatever may be the Fate of your Endeavours, we shall at least have this pleasing Satisfaction, that those whom we entrusted with our Rights and Liberties, have contributed all in their Power to prevent the impending Ruin of our Country.

Given under our Common Seal,
Oct. 9. 1740.

At a full Meeting of the Gentlemen of the County of *Flint*, at *Flint*, on *Thursday*, the 23d of *October*, the following Address and Instructions were presented to Sir *Thomas Mostyn*, Bart.

To Sir Thomas Mostyn, Bart. Knight of the Shire for the County of Flint.

WE the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of this County, now assembled at *Flint*, return you our due Thanks for your faithful Discharge of that important

tant Trust, which, as our Representative in Parliament, has been reposed in you.

We highly approve your Conduct in opposing the late infamous *Convention*, which not only reflected Dishonour upon the Nation, but was likewise destructive of its most valuable Rights.

We no less applaud your Concurrence to the late Bill for reducing and limiting the Number of *Placemen* in Parliament; such 'a Body under Ministerial Influence we look upon with Horror, as the Source of our present Distresses, and productive of our future Ruin: But as we dare and will be free, it is hereby earnestly recommended to you, to renew your Efforts for obtaining a like Bill in the approaching Session, being well assur'd, that such a Law can be the only Remedy to revive our drooping Liberties, and animate a languishing Constitution.

We have chearfully contributed to the extraordinary Supplies, and have a Right to know their Application; this, together with the present Posture of Affairs, seems to cry aloud for a Parliamentary Enquiry, and therein we expect your Assistance, hoping that Things may, even yet, be put upon such a Footing, that we shall not be longer unreasonably harrafs'd at Home, or too justly ridicul'd Abroad.

We

We further declare, that not only here, but where-ever our respective Properties lye, we shall strenuously support those Gentlemen, who, like you, engage in the true Interest of their Country; such as have shewn a just Detestation of ignominious Treaties, and have contributed their honest Endeavours to exclude from the Senate, all Mercenary *Officers*, and Servile *Placemen*.

*From the Shire-Hall at Flint, the
23d Day of October, 1740.*

To the Right Hon. John Lord Viscount Tyrconnel, and the Hon. Sir Michael Newton, Bart. Members of Parliament for the Corporation of Grantham in the County of Lincoln.

WE the Aldermen, Comburgesses, and Burgesses of the said Corporation, being sensible of the ill Consequences which have already attended this Nation, from the great Number of *Placemen* in the House of Commons, and considering the present Posture of Affairs require your utmost Attention, do most earnestly desire your constant Attendance in Parliament, and in Case a Bill should be propos'd or brought in this next Sessions to reduce the Number of *Placemen*, that you will use your utmost Endeavour that the same may pass

pass into a Law ; a Law absolutely necessary to restore Parliaments to their antient Independency, and to preserve our Constitution and Liberties.

It was advis'd from *Liskeard* in *Cornwall*, that the following Instructions (being sign'd by the Mayor, Grand Jury, and every Voter in the Town except Three) were deliver'd to their present Representatives.

To Richard Eliot, and Charles Trelawney, Esqrs. our Representatives in Parliament.

IT is with inexpressible Grief and Concern, that we find Instructions necessary from particular Counties, Cities and Boroughs, to their Representatives in Parliament.

And tho' we do not in the least doubt of your hearty Attachment to, and Zeal for the publick Good, our Laws and Liberties ; yet we cannot, at this time, in Justice to ourselves, help declaring our Sentiments, and earnestly recommending to you to use your earnest Endeavours to procure a proper Bill to pass into a Law for limiting the excessive Number of *Place-men* in the House of Commons, and likewise a Bill for Annual or Triennial Parliaments.

Your

Your hearty Concurrence with these our Instructions, will be the best Proof of your earnest Desire to serve us, and induce us chearfully to entrust our Liberties in your Hands for the future.

Liskeard, 21 October, 1740.

To the Hon. Henry Vane, and Richard Plummer, Esqrs.

WE the Mayor and Freemen of the Ancient and Loyal Borough of *St. Mawes*, as well in Conformity with our own Sentiments, as with the Example lately and gloriously set to us by the Grand Inquest for our County, instruct you our Representatives to pursue the Measures recommended by them, to which we now refer you. We wish we could with any Propriety drop, in Regard to you both, every Part of what they have apply'd to their worthy Representatives; but our Thanks must be confin'd to one of you, whose Conduct in Parliament has been such as to deserve the Confidence which has been reposed in you by our free and uninfluenced Choice.

St. Mawes, Oct. 8. 1740.

The

*The Representation and Recommendation
of the Freeholders and Barons of Suther-
land, to the Honourable Brigadier James
Sinclair, Member of Parliament for the
said County.*

Dornock, Oct. 2.

WE, the Barons and Freeholders of the Shire of *Sutherland*, met this Day at *Dornock*, the Head Burgh of the Shire, considering, that notwithstanding the many good Laws already made for the Security and Preservation of our happy Constitution; yet Time and Experience have discover'd, that these Laws are still defective in many Particulars, which highly deserves the Consideration and Interposition of Parliament; and that it is the Duty not only of every Person whatsoever, who hath the Honour and Happiness to be represented there, to contribute so far as lies in their Power towards procuring and enacting such Laws and Statutes as appear necessary and reasonable for securing the many valuable Blessings we enjoy under so happy a Constitution, and that no Time can be more proper for endeavouring to have such Defects supplied, than this, when we live under the Government of so gracious a Sovereign, who hath given convincing Proofs how much he hath at Heart the Prosperity and Happiness of his Sub-
G jects,

jects, and hath so often graciously declared his Royal Intention to maintain inviolably our present happy Constitution, and to make the Laws the Rule and Measure of his Government; judge it our Duty now, before the Meeting of the last Session of this present Parliament, to recommend it to you, that in general you do concur with, and endeavour to promote the passing such Laws as may reasonably be proposed, for the future Security of our present happy Constitution, particularly such as are yet necessary for maintaining the Freedom and Independency of Parliament, and preserving a just Balance of Power betwixt the several Branches of the Legislature. More particularly, we earnestly recommend to you, to endeavour to promote a Law or Laws for the better explaining and bringing to a Certainty the Rights of Election, and Method of proceeding in Elections of Members to represent the Shires and Boroughs in *Scotland*, so as that the same may proceed with Freedom and Impartiality, according to the real Sentiments of the Electors, and may be guarded against all undue Influence from the Crown, or those in the Administration; and that *Returning Officers* may be more effectually restrain'd from making undue and arbitrary Returns. 2dly, That, towards obtaining this End, you use your Endeavours to procure a
proper

proper Law for the more effectual preventing Bribery and Corruption in Elections, and for the easier and more effectual Execution of such Laws as are already made, or may yet be made on that Head. 3dly, That you concur in procuring all Laws and Regulations for preserving the Honour, Freedom, and Independency of Parliaments when chosen, and that you particularly have an Eye to the preventing Parliaments being fill'd with an unreasonable Number of Persons in *Office Civil* and *Military*. 4thly, That for the better securing the Freedom of Parliaments, and that the Subjects may have the more frequent Occasions to discover their Sentiments with respect to Matters necessary for Parliamentary Deliberation; we recommend to you to use your Endeavours to have the Duration of Parliaments shorten'd, and new Parliaments more frequently call'd. 5thly, That you oppose the Extension of all such Excise Laws, as are found grievous to the Subjects, and that you endeavour, as far as the Exigencies of the Government can allow, to have the Excises already impos'd, and Manner of laying the same, mitigated. 6thly, That you avoid giving your Concurrence to general Votes of Credit, where the particular Uses are not laid before the Parliament, such Votes appearing to us as dangerous to the Constitution. 7thly, That

you do concur in any proper Law that may be proposed for regulating the Qualifications of Justices of the Peace; and that in any Questions concerning Elections, you do endeavour to support the Person, sitting Member or Petitioner, on whose Side the Right of Election shall appear to be: That you do shew a just Indignation and Resentment against all Corruption and corrupt Practices used in Elections; and in the last Place we recommend to you, to correspond from Time to Time with your Electors, and to acquaint them of any thing material that may be brought into Parliament, or which you may find intended to be brought in, that we may have an Opportunity of offering you our Thoughts upon it. These Things we take the Liberty to recommend to you at this Time, not doubting but that you will behave in a Manner agreeable to the Constitution and particular Interest of this County.

These

These following Instructions were given, some of them a little before, and others about the Beginning of last Sessions of Parliament.

The Instructions to the four City Members, deliver'd on Monday the 1st of October, 1739, by Mr. Glover to the Sheriffs, were introduc'd by that Gentleman in a Speech to the following Effect.

Mr. Alderman Heathcote, and Sir John Lequesne,

THE Worthy Liverymen of this City, here assembled before you, have now set aside, in all Probability, irrevocably and perpetually set aside, one Candidate, from the Honourable and Powerful Office of Lord Mayor of this Great Metropolis. The Reasons of this Proceeding, must, to every impartial Citizen, appear obvious and incontestable, being founded on that just Indignation, which it becomes every true *Englishman*, at this time, to entertain at the many Disgraces, Barbarities and Insults, which have been suffer'd to fall upon his Country from a Nation esteem'd, in all preceeding Times,

as

as the Object of our Contempt, and whose Insolence we have as often reduced and humbled, as we have exerted our Power. But still, this Proceeding, begun and pursu'd with so much Spirit, conducted with so much Discretion and Decency, where the Peace and good Order of this Great City have been consulted with as much Caution, as the principal Purpose itself has been supported with Resolution and Vigour; I say, this very Proceeding may still be liable to the Censure of Abruptness and Inconsistency, if the same Motives which have influenc'd our Conduct in the Election of our Mayor, do not now create the same Unanimity to pay our most grateful Acknowledgments to our Four Worthy Representatives in Parliament, for their steady and faithful Adherence to all our Rights, for that vigorous Support of our Trade in particular, and of the Honour of this Kingdom in general, by their Opposition in the House of Commons to the late Convention with *Spain*. Our Instructions should likewise accompany our Thanks, that the Tenour of our Conduct may appear to be consistent and uniform throughout. For this Purpose, I have receiv'd this Paper from several Gentlemen of the highest Consideration and Character in this City, who know, that it was at their particular and most earnest Entreaty, that
I have

I have taken upon me to make the following Motion, tho' from the Propriety of the thing itself, I hope I should otherwise stand excused: I therefore humbly move that this Paper may be read; and if, as I doubt not, it obtains the Approbation of this Assembly, that you, Gentlemen, our Worthy Sheriffs, may be desir'd to present Copies of it to the Right Honourable *Macajah Perry, Esq;* Lord Mayor, to *Humphry Parsons, Esq;* Alderman, to *Sir John Barnard, Knt.* and Alderman, and to *Robert Willimot, Esq;* Alderman, our Four Representatives in Parliament.

*To the Right Honourable
Macajah Perry, Esq; Lord Mayor,
Humphry Parsons, Esq; Alderman,
Sir John Barnard, Knt. and Ald.
Robert Willimot, Esq; Alderman,*

*Representatives of the City of London in
this present Parliament.*

WE the Liverymen of the City of *London*, in Common-Hall assembled, in order to exert our undoubted Right of Electing two proper Persons to be return'd to the Court of Aldermen for the Mayoralty of this Great City for the Year ensuing, should be wanting both to you and ourselves, if whilst we are shewing
a just

a just Repentment; by setting aside one Person, whose Conduct we disapprove, and whom we judge unworthy of that High and Honourable Office, we did not take the same Opportunity of returning you our sincere and hearty Thanks for your general Conduct in Parliament; and in a more particular Manner for your late Endeavours to preserve us from the ruinous Consequences we then too justly apprehended from the *Convention* with *Spain*.

And, tho' neither your Endeavours at that time, nor the Interposition of this City, had the desired Effect, yet every Man in this Nation must be now fully convinced of the Dishonour, as well as Danger, of that fatal Treaty.

We are now made deeply sensible of the unhappy State of this Kingdom, from the imminent Mischiefs which seem to threaten us from Abroad; and it is with great Grief we observe our excellent Constitution declining in some Instances at Home: But when the true Spirit and Vigour of a *British* Parliament shall exert itself, we promise ourselves, that, with the Divine Assistance, we shall be equally preserv'd from the Dangers of both.

In a free and uncorrupted Assembly of our Representatives consists, not only the Dignity, but even the Character and very Essence of a Parliament. It is of the highest

highest Importance, that those, whom we intrust with an unrestrain'd Power of making all Laws, affecting our Trade, Properties, Liberties and Lives, should be uninfluenced by any lucrative Considerations; and yet, notwithstanding several good Laws have been made to secure the Independency of the House of Commons, how insecure must that great Blessing be, from the Number of *Placemen* who have already got Footing there, and who may be augmented hereafter by many more.

It is therefore, as we apprehend, absolutely necessary, that some new and more effectual Provision should be made to reduce and limit their Number; and we require and insist, that you would use your utmost Endeavours to promote a Bill for that salutary Purpose, in Conjunction with such Patriots as may be willing to join with you, and assist you in this great and necessary Work.

As the Nation has, on many Occasions, found the happy Effects of applying to their Representatives, and giving them proper Instructions in Cases of great Consequence, as in particular with Regard to the late pernicious Excise Scheme, which was calculated for the Destruction of the Liberties of this Nation, which vile Attempt was by these means defeated, so we are unwilling to entertain the least Doubt of

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meeting

meeting with the same Success upon this Occasion : And as this is a Point on which the very Being of Parliaments, and the Prosperity of this Kingdom so absolutely depend, we once more earnestly require you to make it a previous Step to the passing of any *Money-Bill* whatsoever.

These Instructions being read, were unanimously approv'd of by the Common-Hall, and Copies were presented by the Sheriffs to the Four City Members, pursuant to the Request of the Common-Hall.

On *Tuesday* October the 6th, the Common-Council of the City of York unanimously agreed upon the following Address to their Representatives.

To Sir John Lister Kaye, Bart. and Edward Thompson, Esq, Representatives of the City of York, in the present Parliament.

WE the Commons of the City of York in Common-Council assembled, in order to exert our undoubted Right of applying to our Representatives upon all important Occasions, take the Opportunity of returning our Thanks to one of our Representatives for his Opposition to the Convention with *Spain*.

We

We are sensible that the Spirit of a *British* Parliament can only be exerted in an Assembly of Men uncorrupted and independent ; we do therefore insist and require you our Representatives, to join with those who shall be willing to promote a Bill to reduce and limit the Number of *Placemen* in the House of Commons ; whose Numbers in that Assembly do at present exceed any Example of former Ages, and who hereafter may be encreased to such a Degree, as may render our Liberties and Properties insecure, and consequently compleat our Ruin.

We do therefore repeat our Instructions, and require you to use your utmost Endeavours to promote a Bill, which we apprehend to be so necessary for the Security, Happiness, and Prosperity of this Nation.

It was advis'd about this time, that the Common-Council of that City, observing the Citizens of *London* had, pursuant to the Precedent which they had set them, broke through their old ridiculous, absurd Custom of a *Rotation*, in the Election of a Lord Mayor ; they had also resolv'd to follow, in Return, the Example of *London* in sending up *Instructions* to their *Members*, to use their most strenuous Endeavours for obtaining, this Sessions of Parlia-

ment, an *effectual Bill* to limit the Number of *Placemen, &c.* in the House of Commons for the future.

Also, from a certain Borough in *Shropshire*, that the same Tricks had been play'd there as at *Southampton*, by lending Money on Notes, Bonds, &c. to the Electors, in order to fix their Votes against next Election: But one of the Electors wrote thus, *Our Eyes are now opened, and we design to break their Bonds asunder, and cast away their Cords from us.* — This Letter mention'd a Dispute that had happen'd between a Gentleman and his Agent, about the Expences of the last Election, which were *unpaid*.

On the 26th past the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common-Council of the Borough of *Leicester*, unanimously agreed upon the following Address to their Representatives.

To George Wright and James Wigley, Esqrs. Members of Parliament for the Borough of Leicester.

GENTLEMEN,
THE Steadiness of your Conduct, on all Occasions, your constant Regard as well to the Honour of his Majesty as, of the *British Nation*, your ready
 Con-

Concurrence with the Inclinations as well as Interest of your Constituents, and the Opposition you have made to every base and dishonourable Scheme, render it wholly unnecessary to give you any particular Instructions, even at this particular Juncture : We can only express the just Sense we have of your Merit, and send you this as a Testimony of our Approbation.

From the Experience we have had of the Integrity of all our worthy Representatives, we can be confident they will never be bias'd by any mercenary Views to betray their Country, or cease to use their utmost Efforts to prevent any undue Influence, which may affect the Freedom of Parliament, and threaten the Liberties of the People.

*Dated at the Common-Hall, October 26,
1739.*

Edmund Ludlam, *Mayor.*

*To the Right Honourable George Dodding-
ton, Esq; and Charles Wyndham, Esq;
Representatives of the Borough of Bridg-
water in the present Parliament.*

WHEREAS our great and worthy
Metropolis, the City of *London*,
with the City of *York*, and many other
consider-

considerable Towns and Boroughs in *Great Britain*, have thought it incumbent upon them to give Instructions to their several Representatives to promote a Bill at the approaching Sessions of Parliament, for reducing and limiting the Number of *Place-men* in the House of Commons; We the Electors and Constituents of the Borough of *Bridgewater*, being fully satisfy'd of the Necessity of such a Law, in order to preserve our most excellent Constitution, do expect and require you both to use your utmost Efforts at the ensuing Sessions of Parliament, towards the promoting the said Bill, and passing the same into a Law previous to the passing any Money-Bill whatever.

To Borlace Warren, and John Plumptree,
Esqrs. Members of (and Representatives in) Parliament for the Town of Nottingham.

GENTLEMEN,

WE the Burgeses at large, and Freeholders of the Town of *Nottingham*, take leave to remind you, that great and good Examples ever produce the most desirable End. However easy either of you, Gentlemen, may think us in a Situation, whereby many of our ancient Rights and Privileges are visibly declining and dwindling away,

away, yet be assured we are not so supine as to let go all our valuable Blossoms; among which, we deem not this the least, that we have an undoubted Right (as your Constituents) to give Instructions; and to open our bleeding Hearts, by giving you an Intimation of (what we think) a national Grievance; and that is, amongst some others, the great, unreasonable, and unnecessary Number of *Placemen* in your House; a dangerous Influence! for the reducing whereof, both now, and in all Futurity, we ardently insist upon your utmost Assistance, by the advancing a Bill for that Purpose in the present Sessions of Parliament; and in this we are the most sanguine and resolute, by reason we conceive so great a Number of *Placemen* to be an insupportable dead Weight, whenever the Trade and Liberty of the People, and the Interest and Prerogative of the Crown, shall come in Competition.

Gentlemen,

No Alteration in our present happy Constitution, either in Church or State, can be agreeable to us, save only our antient Native Freedom and Birth-right, of chusing annual Parliaments; for the Accomplishment whereof we may one Day require your Assistance.

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It is not a little low piratical War, Gentlemen, but a vigorous Prosecution of the War, conformable to his Most Gracious Majesty's late Royal Proclamation, that will encourage us chearfully and willingly to give our Concurrence and Assistance, to support the Interest and Honour, as well of his Majesty's Most Sacred Person, both at Home and Abroad, as also to maintain and defend our ancient Trade, Commerce, and Navigation, so essential to the Welfare and Prosperity of this Nation.

Upon the whole, Gentlemen, your Conduct, in those weighty Affairs, and just Requests, will make such an Impression upon our Minds and Resolutions, as shall make you an adequate Return both from ourselves and many Huudreds more of our Neighbours, the Burgeses at large, and Freeholders of this antient and extensive Trading Town and County of the Town of *Nottingham*.

*Copy of Instructions sent by the Burgh of
Coupar, in the County of Fife, to John
Drummond, of Quarrel, Esq; their Re-
presentative in Parliament.*

S I R,

IT seems to be the general Opinion of the Nation, as well as it is our own, that the great Number of *Placemen* in Parliament, the long Continuance of Parliaments, for the Space of Seven Years, and the frequent Use of Votes of Credit, are of very dangerous Consequences to our Constitution ; and therefore the Town-Council of this *Burgh*, having this Day met, think it their indispensable Duty to instruct You, their Representative, that You would use your utmost Endeavours to promote, or concur in promoting effectual Laws for limiting the Number of *Placemen* in the House of Commons, and for reducing the Time of sitting of Parliament to the ancient Form of One, or, at most, Three Years ; and that you will oppose all Votes of Credit, except on the most urgent Occasions, and even then, unless these Votes be restricted in the most cautious Manner. This we do, not from any factious Principles, which we abhor ; but as we judge it the most effectual Method for bringing all Per-

sons to concur in vigorous Measures for carrying on the War, which hath been most justly declar'd against the *Spaniards*, who have so long infested us by repeated Depredations on our Traders by Sea. We expect and require your Compliance with these Instructions, and are,

S I R,

Coupar, Nov. *Your most Humble Servants.*
23, 1739.

Sign'd by Order of the Council.

F I N I S.





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